

MEDIA RELEASE



Contact: Shyanne Palmus
Communications Coordinator
Shyanne.Palmus@co.benton.wa.us
509-222-3760

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REVISIONS TO COUNTY HOURS IN RESPONSE TO OPENING OF CONSTRUCTION BY GOVERNOR

Kennewick, WA – With Governor Inslee’s announcement today (April 24, 2020) that some restrictions on construction work for existing projects during the ongoing stay-at-home order will be lifted, certain Benton County offices will be revising their availability and office hours to accommodate an influx of permit applications.

CHANGES IN OFFICE HOURS & AVAILABILITY

The Benton County Public Services Building (located at 102206 E Wisner Parkway, Kennewick), which houses the Tri-Cities offices for the Building, Planning, and Public Works Departments, will have staff on site for building permit related issues and questions for existing projects beginning Monday, April 27, 2020.

The building itself will remain closed to the public. Staff will be answering questions and scheduling inspections via telephone and email only. The Prosser offices for these departments will remain closed with limited staff availability. All building permit issues must be handled at the Public Services Building location until further notice.

Existing projects are defined as those that had a building or other related construction permit issued before midnight on March 25, 2020 or have had a permit issued since that date under an exception to the Governor’s “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25. No new building permits will be issued except for those activities already provided an exemption under Proclamation 20-25.

ENFORCEMENT OF COVID-19 JOBSITE REQUIREMENTS

Contractors must please note: Benton County is not the inspector or enforcer of the contractors’ required COVID-19 safety plan, and is not responsible for ensuring that contractors provide appropriate training to staff or follow the [State’s Phase 1 Construction Restart COVID-19 Jobsite Requirements](#). These safety practices are required as long as the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Proclamation 20-25 is in effect.

However, Benton County Inspection staff may decline to perform an inspection and/or leave the site at any time they feel the site is unsafe.

ABOUT BENTON COUNTY

Benton County is located in south-central Washington. The county seat is located in Prosser, and its largest city is Kennewick. Benton County was created on March 8, 1905 and was named after U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Benton County operates under the plural executive form of government with three commissioners and seven other elected officials. Benton County has offices located in Prosser and Kennewick. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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